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LINSLADE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1960

1960

LINSLADE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN:

J.J.E. Pilson Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN:

N.H. Alcock Esq.

COUNCILLORS:

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Mrs. F.L. Damment
R.J.P. Jameson Esq.
A.E. King Esq.
J.J.E. Pilson Esq.
R.G.Yeowart Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

D.H. Waldron, O.B.E.,M.D.,D.P.H.,
D.T.M. & H., Col.I.A.M.C. (Retd.).

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER:

F.L. O'Rourke, M.B.,CH.B.,D.P.H.,D.I.H.

SURVEYOR & PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

W. Meredith, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices,
6, Leighton Road,
Linslade.

20th June, 1961

To the Chairman and Members of
Linslade Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1960.

The Birth Rate shows a satisfactory rise, and is now 4 points higher than that for the rest of the Country.

The Death Rate is higher than last year, but is still 1 point lower than that for the rest of the Country. Of the 42 deaths 24 were due to Heart and Allied Diseases and Cancer.

The Infantile Mortality Rate is lower than last year and at 12.3 compares very favourably with 19.8 for the County and 21.7 for the rest of the Country.

Once more I should like to record another year of pleasant co-operation with your Clerk, Mr. Uphill, your Surveyor and Health Inspector, Mr. Meredith, and their staffs.

I am,
Your Obedient Servant,

D.H. WALDRON.

LINSLADE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1960

(A) VITAL STATISTICS

1. GENERAL	1959	1960
Area in acres	1,693	1,693
Population	3,760	3,770
Number of inhabited houses	1,314	1,333
Rateable Value	51,792	52,234
Rate in the £	22/-	22/-
Sum represented by a penny rate	£205	£213

2. BIRTHS		
Legitimate (Male)	29	43
" (Female)	37	37
Illegitimate	1	1
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	17.8	21.5
" " " " " (Bucks)	17.6	18.6
" " " " " (England & Wales)	16.5	17.1

3. DEATHS		
Males	23	21
Females	13	21
Death Rate per 1,000 population	9.3	10.7
" " " " " (Bucks)	9.7	9.7
" " " " " (England & Wales)	11.6	11.5
Still Births	Nil	1
Maternal Mortality Rate	14.9	12.2
" " " (Bucks)	.25	.11
" " " (England & Wales) ..	.38	.39

4. INFANTILE MORTALITY

	1959	1960
Deaths of Infants under 1 yr. per 1,000 births	14.9	12.3
" " " " " " "(Bucks)	18.4	19.8
" " " " " (England & Wales)	22.0	21.7

5. PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH

	1959			1960		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Respiratory Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer	3	3	6	2	3	5
Diabetes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Haemhorrage into Nervous System	2	3	5	4	3	7
Heart Diseases	8	4	12	4	8	12
Pneumonia	2	1	3	1	2	3
Bronchitis & Other Respiratory Diseases	0	0	0	3	0	3
Digestive Diseases	2	0	2	0	0	0
Congenital Diseases	0	0	0	1	0	1
Suicide & Accidents	2	0	2	4	1	5
All other causes	4	2	6	2	4	6
Totals	23	13	36	21	21	42

(B) GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. LABORATORY FACILITIES

Specimens for pathological investigation were sent, as in previous years, to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Luton. This arrangement has worked very satisfactorily.

2. AMBULANCE SERVICES

For general cases, accidents and infectious diseases, two motor ambulances and one car for sitting cases are maintained in the district.

3. NURSING IN THE HOME

This, as also her maternity duties, was carried out by the District Nurse in her usual efficient manner.

4. CHILD WELFARE CENTRE

A centre at the Forster Institute has held regular sessions on the second and fourth Friday of each month. A Medical Officer attends once a month, and the District Nurse and Health Visitor each session. Attendances by children during the year numbered 1,138.

5. HOSPITALS

The following hospitals received cases from the area:-

Royal Bucks, Aylesbury
Tindal, Aylesbury
Isolation, Aylesbury
Luton & Dunstable
Spittlesea, Luton

(C) SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

60,323,000 gallons of water were abstracted from the Council's boreholes during the year. This represented a decrease on the previous year of 3,411,000 gallons, largely accounted for by the absence of the heavy demand occasioned by the previous long dry summer. At no time during the year were restrictions imposed on the use of garden hoses etc. The official number of garden hose-pipes increased during the year from 90 to 113. In addition services were laid on to 3 new dwellings and grants were approved towards the installation of baths, wash hand basins and waterclosets in 9 other dwellings. The bulk of the year's total abstraction was once again taken from No.3 borehole, which had been in continual use since February 1957. The submersible pump in the borehole continued to give first class service. Its declining efficiency however necessitated more frequent use of No.1 borehole and supplementation from the Bucks Water Board's bulk supply. The new borehole was completed and test pumped towards the end of the year.

The supply to the Southcott area of the Town continued to be taken from the mains of the Bucks Water Board in Wing Hill. In addition to the above abstraction, 2,718,000 gallons were taken through this bulk supply during the year.

A regular check was kept on the quality of the water being distributed and precautionary chlorination continued. Of 143 samples taken and submitted for bateriological examination, 10 returned unsatisfactory results and 1 was suspicious. The unsatisfactory samples gave no cause for alarm. Three of them were of raw water taken from the borehole after flooding of the pumping station. Samples of the same water taken after treatment showed it to be perfectly satisfactory. Remedial measures were taken in the other cases, check samples proving satisfactory. In addition to the above, 1 sample taken from a shallow well supplying an isolated dwelling was unsatisfactory, the owner was notified and advised accordingly.

1323 houses were supplied with water direct from the public mains and eight by means of standpipes. It is estimated that 99.8% of the population of the district received water from the public supply.

Chemical Examinations of samples taken from the rising main to No. 3 borehole and the tap at 73 Soulbury Road, on the 4th August, 1960, were reported upon as follows:-

Rising Main - No. 3 Borehole	Chemical Results in Parts per Million
Appearance	Slight opalescence with a few particles.
Turbidity	20
Colour	Filtered: Nil
Odour	Nil
pH	6.8
Free Carbon Dioxide	65
Electric Conductivity	620
Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C.	415
Chlorine present as Chloride	18
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	240
Hardness: Total	355
Carbonate	240
Non-carbonate	115
Nitrate Nitrogen	2.9
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.000
Oxygen Absorbed	0.30
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.000
Residual Chlorine	...
Metals: Iron	0.96
Manganese	0.08
Zinc, Copper & Lead	Absent

This sample shows opalescence due to the presence of an appreciable and therefore objectionable trace of iron. It is free from other metals apart from a minute trace of manganese. The water is on the acid side of neutrality and has a high content of free carbon dioxide: from the aspect of corrosive activity a reduction in this free carbon dioxide is therefore required. The water is very hard in character though not excessively so, contains no excess of mineral constituents and it is of very satisfactory organic quality.

From the aspect of the chemical analysis treatment is required to remove iron and correct corrosive characteristics. Subject to such treatment the results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

Tap - 73 Soulbury Road

	Chemical Results in Parts per Million
Appearance	Clear and bright
Turbidity	Nil
Colour	Nil
Odour	Nil
pH	7.5
Free Carbon Dioxide	15
Electric Conductivity	620
Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C.	415
Chlorine present as Chloride	17
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	240
Hardness: Total	350
Carbonate	240
Non-carbonate	110
Nitrate Nitrogen	2.8
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.000
Oxygen Absorbed	0.20
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.000
Residual Chlorine	Absent
Metals: Manganese	0.05
Iron, Zinc, Copper & Lead	Absent

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, just on the alkaline side of neutrality and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of manganese. The water is very hard in character though not excessively so, contains no excess of mineral constituents and it is of very satisfactory organic quality.

From the aspect of the chemical analysis these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

2. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

As in previous years, little or no works of maintenance or improvement were carried out to the disposal works at Old Linslade. This was due to the impending scheme for the construction of new disposal works to be used jointly with Leighton Buzzard.

A Public Inquiry into the Compulsory Purchase Order for the site of the new works was held early in the year. The Order was confirmed by the Ministry and the Consulting Engineers were asked to proceed with the detailed proposals.

3. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Routine house and trade refuse collection was carried out. Labour problems, increases in residential development and transport difficulties, occasionally made it impossible to maintain the desired weekly collection.

At the beginning of the year negotiations were proceeding for the use of the site at Old Linslade as a tip to serve both Linslade and Leighton Buzzard. Planning permission was received and the terms of the lease were finalised. In March Luton Rural District Council requested the two Councils to cease using their tip, and it was found possible to bring the Old Linslade tip into operation on the 17th March. Staffing presented a problem, but with the co-operation of certain members of the staff, the difficulty was overcome by a rearrangement of duties.

Certain inevitable inconveniences were experienced but on the whole tipping proceeded very satisfactorily. As the work progressed it became apparent that the reclamation of hitherto useless land was being effected.

The collection of waste paper salvage was resumed.

4. RIVERS AND STREAMS

Periodic inspections of the canal, river and streams within the Urban District revealed one or two cases of pollution and appropriate action was taken.

5. SWIMMING B THS AND POOLS

There are, unfortunately no suitable swimming facilities for the public within the Urban District.

6. PUBLIC MORTUARY

The mortuary, which is the joint responsibility of this authority and the Wing Rural District Council, was not used during the year.

7. DETAILS OF VISITS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Nuisances and complaints	15
Nuisances abated	Nil
Infectious diseases	6
Water tests applied to drains	75
Smoke tests applied to drains	1
Works in progress	179
Sewerage	8
Water supplies	38
Water samples	142
Milk samples	9
Ice cream samples	Nil
Factories	1
Public Conveniences	7
Housing	43
Meat inspection etc.	110
Petroleum Regulations	4
Smoke abatement	Nil
Miscellaneous visits	327

(D) HOUSING

15 new Council dwellings on Mentmore Road Housing site were occupied during the year. These consisted of 8 houses, 7 flats and a shop with a flat above. At the end of the year one site, on which it was proposed to erect old peoples flatlets remained to be developed on this estate. The Council converted an existing house which they had acquired into two self-contained flats.

3 dwellings were completed by private enterprise during the year.

273 Council houses and 220 private enterprise houses have been built in Linslade since the war.

Inspection of district

The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation	6
The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	Nil
The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to:-	
(a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works	Nil
(b) the making of demolition or closing orders	3
The number of notices served requiring the execution of works	Nil
The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice	Nil
The number of demolition or closing orders made	3
The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection (4) of Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957	Nil
The number of houses demolished	Nil

(E) NUISANCES, CONTRAVENTIONS OF BYELAWS, ETC

1. GENERAL

18 complaints were dealt with during the year and 9 informal notices were served.

2. FACTORIES ACT 1937

One inspection of a factory was made regarding the provision of suitable sanitary accommodation.

3. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Regular inspections for the destruction of rats and mice were undertaken by the Council's Rodent Operator whose services are shared with Leighton Buzzard U.D.C.

Visits were made as follows:-

Dwelling houses	7
Business premises	4
Agricultural premises	Nil
Local Authority premises, etc.	8

Sewer inspections were made, and treatment carried out where infestations were noted.

(F) MEAT & OTHER FOODS, FOOD PREMISES, ETC.

1. NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES, ETC.

Dairies	4
Registered premises, Sec. 16 Food & Drugs Act, 1955.	18
Licenced premises	11
Confectionery, Grocery and Greengrocery	18
Butchers	3
Cafes and canteens	3
Bakeries	1
	58

Total number of visits made during the year 9

2. MILK AND DAIRIES

The dairies within the Urban District were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

9 samples were taken from retailers distributing milk in the district. All except one were satisfactory.

3. SLAUGHTERHOUSE

The Ship Road slaughterhouse was relicensed and used throughout the year.

The report required under the Slaughterhouse Act 1958 relating to slaughtering facilities within the District was compiled, approved by the Council, published and submitted to the Minister.

An undertaking that the premises would fully comply with the requirements of the Regulations by the end of the year unfortunately did not materialise.

5. INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	76	115	5	373	133
Number inspected	76	115	5	373	133
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci:					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	20	48	2	17	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	26.3%	41.7%	40.0%	4.6%	Nil
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cysticercosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

No horses were slaughtered

818 lbs of meat and offal found to be unfit for human consumption was condemned.

Condemnation certificates were issued in respect of 23 lbs 5 ozs of other foods and 152 packets of pre-packed frozen foods.

(G) PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. GENERAL

We were free from any epidemics during the year. There were only 23 cases notified as against 95 in 1959.

2. NUMBER OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

	1959	1960
Whooping Cough	4	7
Scarlet Fever	4	4
Measles	68	2
Pneumonia	17	7
Dysentery	Nil	1
Food Poisoning	2	2

3. CANCER

There were 5 deaths from cancer during the year compared with 6 in 1958.

4. TUBERCULOSIS

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis. 3 cases were notified 1 of which was a transfer into the district.

D.H. WALDRON
Medical Officer of Health

W. MEREDITH
Public Health Inspector.

APPENDIX

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937

Part I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Number of Written notices (4)	Number of Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	20	1	1	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	26	1	1	Nil

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

	Sanitary Conveniences unsuitable or defective	All other defects
Defects found	1	Nil
Defects remedied	Nil	Nil
Referred to H.M.Inspector	Nil	Nil
Referred by H.M.Inspector	Nil	Nil
Prosecutions instituted	Nil	Nil

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork - (Sections 110 and 111)

There were no outworkers in the district.

HEALTH
JUL
CR. 47